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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/964,042	09/26/2001	Ralph Weichselbaum	27373/36638A	1056

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EXAMINER

ANGELL, JON E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1635

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/964,042	Applicant(s) WEICHSELBAUM ET AL.	
	Examiner Jon Eric Angell	Art Unit 1635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Action is in response to the communication filed on 6/28/2006.

Applicant's arguments are addressed on a per section basis. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this Action can be found in a prior Office Action. Any rejections not reiterated in this action have been withdrawn as being obviated by the amendment of the claims and/or applicant's arguments.

Claims 1-14 and 16 currently pending and are addressed herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Advani (1997; Int. Journ. Oncol. Rad. Biol. Phys) in view of Carroll et al. (Ann. Surg. 1996) for

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the reasons of record (see the Office Action mailed on 6/15/2004), which are reiterated below for convenience.

The instant claims are drawn to a method for reducing tumor mass by administering an attenuated HSV to a subject having cancer wherein the HSV genome has been modified in an inverted repeat region such that the HSV has only one active gamma(1)34.5 gene, wherein the HSV is administered in an amount effective to reduce tumor mass. It is noted that the claims explicitly encompass administering HSV R7020, and the claims explicitly encompass administering the HSV to CNS tumors.

Advani (1997) is an abstract that clearly teaches “Human U-87MG glioma cells were grown in the hind limb of athymic mice... and infected with... [HSV] R7020... the tumors were harvested... 14 days after viral injection.” Furthermore, Advani teaches, “Herein we demonstrate radiation enhanced viral replication as one of the interactive effects of combining IR and attenuated HSV in treating glioma xenografts and a potential therapeutic motif in the treatment of gliomas.” (emphasis added). Therefore, Advani (1997) clearly anticipates the instant claims as they encompass a method for reducing tumor mass comprising direct delivery of the attenuated HSV to the tumor.

Advani does not explicitly teach that the attenuated HSV virus could be used to treat a non-CNS tumor in vivo.

Carroll teaches treatment of non-CNS tumor using an attenuated HSV (hrR3). Specifically, Carroll teaches a method for treating colon carcinoma liver metastasis by administering an attenuated HSV directly to the tumor (e.g., see abstract).

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious at the time of invention that the method taught by Advani would have also been able to treat a non-CNS tumor such as a colon carcinoma liver metastasis in an animal or human, with a reasonable expectation of success. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the method of Advani to treat a non-CNS cancer because Carroll teaches that attenuated HSVs can be used to treat non-CNS-type tumors. Furthermore, the in vitro findings taught by the Advani references are indicative of an expectation of success for directly administering the vectors to tumors in vivo.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/28/2006 have been fully considered.

With respect to the objection to the specification and the rejection of claims under 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph for comprising new matter, Applicants arguments are persuasive and the objection and rejection are withdrawn, the amendment to the specification has been entered.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-14 and 16 under 35 USC 112, 1st paragraph for not being fully enabled, Applicants arguments have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Applicant's arguments filed 6/28/2006, as they pertain to the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of Advani (1997) have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that Advani 1997 fails to inherently disclose the reduction of a tumor mass or volume by administering HSV7020. Applicants further contend that Advani (1997) is

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not remedied by Carroll. Applicants argue that the combination of Advani (1997) and Carroll fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations of the claims (see page 23).

In response it is respectfully pointed out that Advani (1997) teaches “Purpose: Previously we had shown that combining ionizing radiation (IR) with attenuated replication competent HSV-1 (R3616) significantly increased glioma xenograft eradication compared to IR or virus alone... Conclusion: Here we demonstrate radiation enhanced viral replication as one of the interactive effects of combining IR and attenuated HSV in treating glioma xenografts...” (Emphasis added). Therefore, Advani (1997) clearly indicates that the administration of the virus to the tumor xenografts is can be used for “treating” tumors. One of skill in the art would clearly recognize that treatment, and certainly a treatment that increases glioma xenograft eradication, would inherently disclose the reduction of a tumor mass or volume.

Therefore, Applicants arguments are not persuasive.

The declaration filed on 6/28/2006 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Advani (1998) reference. Therefore, the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 based on Advani (1998) are withdrawn.

Conclusion

No claim is allowed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

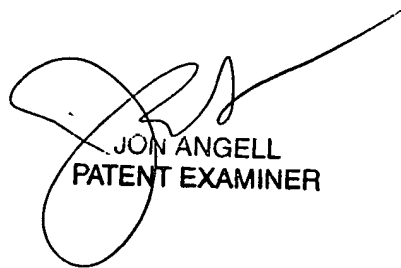
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon Eric Angell whose telephone number is 571-272-0756. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Paras can be reached on 571-272-4517. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

J.E. Angell
AU 1635



JON ANGELL
PATENT EXAMINER